SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR HIERARCHICAL POLICING OF FLOWS AND SUBFLOWS OF A DATA STREAM

ABSTRACT

A system and method for policing individual flows and subflows of a

5   data stream. Data traffic streams are classified into separate traffic flows, which in

turn can be further classified into subflows, thereby providing for different priority

levels of subsets of the flow. The subflows may be still further classified into

additional subflows, creating a hierarchical, layered prioritization that can be

metered at each vertical and horizontal level of the hierarchy. A packet flow rate of

10   each of the subflows is compared to a predefined rate limit to allow subflows of a

flow to have different priorities therebetween.